

# THORNTON SNAPS NATIONAL JC MILE MARK



**SMASHES RECORD . . .** Former Torrance High miler, Mike Thornton, now running for El Camino, set a new national junior college standard for the four-mile grind last Saturday, streaking across the tape in 5:08.4 in the Southern California Championships at Cerritos. (Herald Photo)

## Camino Announces Top Athlete Tonight

By GREGG PETERSON  
Herald Sports Editor

Climaxing the athletic season at El Camino will be the naming of the Athlete of the Year this evening at the annual Sports Banquet in the college cafeteria.

Nary a superstar has come to the fore-front of the Warrior athletic scene, so at least a handful of heroes will be under consideration for the honor.

Usually a man must compete in two sports to be eligible for the award. Last year, track and cross country great Dennis Hansen copped the distinction. Hansen, a former Torrance High star, made El Camino history by also capturing the Outstanding Performance trophy.

ONCE AGAIN it appears the cinderman, and quite possibly another Torrance High grad, may dominate the program.

Two spikers, Rich Fernandez and Tartar Mike Thornton are the two leading candidates for the honor. Fernandez earned the Southern California cross-country title and owns one of the top times for the two-mile grind in the spring sport.

THORNTON almost matched Fernandez in cross country, finishing fourth in the Southern Cal meet, and after Saturday's national record breaking performance in the mile, moves ahead of him in track.

Fernandez was the only Warrior to lick Thornton in cross country dual meets and hung behind the past Tartar in the mile event during the season.

GRID HERO and baseball hurler deluxe, John Torok will also bear consideration. The Tribe freshman moved into a hot spot in football, attempting

to fill the shoes of departed All-American quarterback Ron Veres.

Torok came through honorably, throwing for over 1,000 yards and gaining Metro recognition for his efforts.

Also a Torrance resident, Torok landed smack in the middle of a supposedly powerful mound crew in baseball and came up with an impressive number of strikeouts and a low earned run average to make the second string All-Metropolitan Conference squad.

BREAKING THE "compete in two sports" rule, another Torrance commuter, Cappy Sheeley, top man on the swim team, will also have his hat in the ring.

Sheeley paced the finmen to a shocking fifth place finish in the state finals, grabbing a first in the 100-yard butterfly with a state record effort. He also took a second in the 200-yard fly and finished fourth in the 200-yard individual medley.

ALL TOLD, Sheeley finished the swimming season with one state record and three college standards to his credit.

Based on Saturday's performance, Thornton may duplicate Hansen's triumph of last season and take both awards, but the Torrance High grad can expect trouble from Fernandez for the top athlete award and a struggle from Sheeley for the Outstanding Performance honor.

### Tribe Third

## 'Gades Capture Iron Man Trophy

Indicative of El Camino athletic success the past year is the Carl White "Iron Man" Trophy standings.

In one of the closest races in the 12-year history of the competition, the Warriors took third for the best overall finish of their sports teams in 1961-62 Metropolitan Conference competition.

Bakersfield, despite losing the Metro baseball flag to San Diego in a post-season play-off, took the award with 55½ points.

VALLEY WAS second with 51 points while El Camino (49), Long Beach (46¼), Santa Monica (43¼), San Diego (38), East Los Angeles (13¼) and Harbor (11¼) trailed.

The victory is the second for the Renegades, who also won in 1960. Long Beach has won the honor six times and Santa

Monica twice. El Camino, the only other college to take the distinction, won in 1955.

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## Former Torrance Miler Competes in State Finals

Traveling to Modesto to compete in the California State Track Championships to be held Saturday are two El Camino record holders in cinder competition.

Mike Thornton, new holder of the National Junior College one-mile mark of 4:08.4 and the El Camino school record in the 880 yard run of 1:54.4, will be running in the mile.

Thornton thrilled the cheering throng of sport fans at Cerritos College, host of the Southern California State Championships, last weekend, when he shattered the mile mark.

HE RAN the first lap in 60.5, had a two lap half-mile time of 2:03.6, a three-quarter mile time of 3:07.5 and finished his sensational run in 4:08.4, bringing a standing ovation from the crowd.

The persistent on-Thornton's-heel running of Fullerton's fast-kicking Jan Underwood, who finished just 5 yards (0.013 seconds) behind Thornton, will without a doubt put the national mile record once again in jeopardy, as the two distance greats battle it out for the championship title Saturday.

DENNIS JETT, having set El Camino school cinder records in the 100-yard dash with a 9.7 second clocking, in the 220-yard dash finishing in 21.7 seconds, and in the 220-

yard low hurdles with a time of 23.7, will accompany Coach Ray Southstone and Thornton to Modesto.

Jett will compete in the 220-yard low hurdles, an event in which he placed second last week.

## Braves Take Lead in Tordondo Loop

Moving into undisputed possession of first place, the Tordondo Braves slammed past the Yankees, 2-0, as Larry Hulsey set 17 men down swinging.

Hulsey allowed only three hits and was in trouble only in the final frame. Deanie Gibson, the losing chucker, whiffed 12 men and also allowed three hits, but errors were a contributing factor to both Brave runs and cost him the contest.

It was a rugged week for the Yankees as they also fell before the Indians.

TIGHT DEFENSIVE play by the Indians gave them their first victory of the season. The Yanks had demonstrated a close-knit defense before, but sloppy fielding was the difference.

Ralph Olea was the victorious chucker, striking out nine. His foe, Billy Ernst, chalked up 13 strikeouts. Craig Marshall hit his first home run for the sole Yankee tally in the top of the sixth.

THE DODGERS also wound up on the short end of a pair of contests. The Cubs took an

8-0 win and the Senators jumped on the wagon with a 5-1 victory.

Tom Fisher pitched a three-hitter for the Cubs and was supported by errorless play plus a home run by Larry Brown.

Statistics favored the Dodgers against the Senators, but the score did not.

RON GARRETT, the losing hurler, whiffed 10 Senators and his hill opponent, Jon Yarmolovich, chalked up only four strikeouts, but better control pitching by Yarmolovich and tighter defensive play by the winners decided the outcome.

Yarmolovich helped his own cause with a run scoring triple and was backed up by Mike Mahaffey, two for four. The Senators earned only three hits in the win.

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